

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A facsimile apparatus comprising:

facsimile sending/receiving means for sending and receiving image data by facsimile over a connected public switched telephone network;

reading means for reading image data;

printing means for printing image data;

a plurality of keys;

a connection interface for connection to an information processing apparatus provided with the capability of sending and receiving messages by e-mail over a connected network;

storing means for storing key data representing a predetermined key of the plurality of keys, setting data for setting this key data to e-mail mode, and recipient name data corresponding to the key data; and

sending means for sending the image data, key data, setting data, and recipient name data over the connection interface to the information processing apparatus when the predetermined key has been actuated.

2. The facsimile apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving the key data, the setting data, and the recipient name data over the connection interface from the information processing apparatus and setting them.

3. The facsimile apparatus of claim 1, wherein the image data that is sent by the sending means is read in by the reading means.

4. The facsimile apparatus of claim 1, wherein the image data sent by the sending means is image data that has been received by facsimile with the sending/receiving means.

5. The facsimile apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:  
data deleting means for deleting the image data received by the facsimile sending/receiving means before or after printing the image data.

6. An information processing apparatus provided with a capability of sending and receiving messages by e-mail over a connected network, and connected to a facsimile apparatus comprising facsimile sending/receiving means for sending and receiving image data by facsimile over a connected public switched telephone network; reading means for reading image data; printing means for printing image data; and a plurality of keys, the information processing apparatus comprising:  
storing means for storing key data representing a predetermined key of the plurality of keys that the connected facsimile apparatus is provided with, setting data for setting this key code to e-mail mode, recipient name data corresponding to the key code, and a recipient address corresponding to the

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key data; and

receiving means for receiving image data, key data, setting data, and recipient name data from the connected facsimile apparatus,

wherein the key data matching with the key data received from the facsimile apparatus is retrieved from the storing means, it is determined whether the recipient name data corresponding to the retrieved key data match with the recipient name data received from the facsimile apparatus, and the received image data is sent by e-mail to the recipient address corresponding to the matching retrieved recipient name data.

7. The information processing apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

sending means for sending the key data, the setting data and the recipient name data to the connected facsimile apparatus.

8. A method for data communication between the facsimile apparatus of claim 1 and the information processing apparatus of claim 6, comprising the steps of:

sending image data, key data, setting data and recipient name data from the facsimile apparatus to the information processing apparatus when actuating a predetermined key of the facsimile apparatus; and

receiving the image data, the key data, the setting data, and the recipient name data with the information processing apparatus from the facsimile apparatus, and sending the received image data by e-mail, based on the received key data, setting data, and recipient name data.

9. The method for data communication of claim 8, wherein the facsimile apparatus further comprises receiving means for receiving the key data, the setting data, and the recipient name data over the connection interface from the information processing apparatus and setting them.
10. The method for data communication of claim 8, wherein the image data that is sent by the sending means of the facsimile apparatus is read in by the reading means.
11. The method for data communication of claim 8, wherein the image data sent by the sending means is image data that has been received by facsimile with the sending/receiving means of the facsimile apparatus.
12. The method for data communication of claim 11, wherein the facsimile apparatus comprises data deleting means for deleting the image data received by the facsimile sending/receiving means before or after printing the image

data.

13. The method for data communication of claim 8, wherein the information processing apparatus comprises sending means for sending the key data, the setting data and the recipient name data to the connected facsimile apparatus.

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